

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-31

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INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID JO US IS

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM CONSULTATIONS

REFS: (A) STATE 072072, (B) AMMAN 1986, (C) STATE 077034

1. SUMMARY: ON APRIL 8, OMAR ABDULLAH, PRESIDENT, JORDAN VALLEY COMMISSION, MET WITH AID/W (TAUBENBLATT AND SHEA) TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF MAQARIN DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY BEING PREPARED BY HARZA. WE TREATED MARCH 25 MEETING WITH ISRAELIS (KANTOR) AS SUGGESTED REF B. END SUMMARY.

2. ABDULLAH ADVISED THAT HE AND HANNA ODEH HAD MET IN
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CHICAGO WITH HARZA OFFICIALS TO REVIEW DRAFT FINAL MAQARIN DAM FEASIBILITY STUDY. STUDY NOW PROPOSES FIRST PHASE DAM AT 140 METER HEIGHT WITH NATURAL RIVER CONVEYANCE OPTION, SOME 6,000 HECTARES OF EXISTING AND CONVERTED LAND TO BE PLACED UNDER SPRINKLER IRRIGATION EACH YEAR, AND RECOMMENDED HYDRO GENERATION OF APPROXIMATELY 25 MW (THIS CONTRARY TO EARLIER HARZA FINDING

THAT HYDRO POWER UNECONOMIC). OVERALL COST OF MAQARIN DAM PROJECT, INCLUDING DOWNSTREAM IRRIGATION AND HYDRO POWER, ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY JD 160 MILLION (U.S. DOLS. 480 MILLION).

3. DRAFT FINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ABOUT APRIL 21 AND DISTRIBUTED IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TO AID, WORLD BANK AND OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS. ABDULLAH MENTIONED THAT OTHER DONORS MAY INCLUDE KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, ABU DHABI AND FRG. FOLLOWING THREE-WEEK REVIEW PERIOD, ABDULLAH PROPOSES MEETING WITH JVC, HARZA AND POTENTIAL DONORS TO REVIEW TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS FEASIBILITY STUDY. MAJOR PURPOSE OF MEETING IS TO SOLICIT TECHNICAL COMMENTS FROM POTENTIAL DONORS FOR INCLUSION IN FINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY RATHER THAN TO SEEK DONOR FINANCING FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE. AFTER COMMENTS RECEIVED, HARZA WOULD THEN FINALIZE FEASIBILITY STUDY (SOMETIME IN EARLY JUNE).

4. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING PER PARA. 4 REF B, ABDULLAH INFORMED BY TAUBENBLATT THAT (A) GOJ RESPONSE TO FIVE AREAS OF ISRAELI CONCERN ON MAQARIN PROJECT CONVEYED TO GOI ON TECHNICAL LEVEL, (B) DATA REQUESTED BY GOJ BEING PREPARED BY ISRAELIS AND SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE, AND (C) WE PLAN TO MEET WITH GOI OFFICIALS IN A FEW WEEKS TO OBTAIN FULL GOI RESPONSE INCLUDING POLITICAL. ABDULLAH INDICATED THAT HE PREPARED MAKE AVAILABLE HARZA'S DRAFT FINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ISRAELIS AT SAME TIME STUDY BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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POTENTIAL DONORS.

5. WITH RESPECT AMMAN'S REQUEST PARA. 5 REF B, POUCHED COPIES BAXTER'S REPORT ON LEGAL ASPECTS PALESTINE ELECTRIC CORPORATION CONCESSION ON MARCH 28 TO AMMAN AND TEL AVIV AND WILL BE FORWARDING WEEK OF APRIL 11 COPIES REMAINING SECTIONS BAXTER'S LEGAL STUDY WHICH JUST RECEIVED.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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